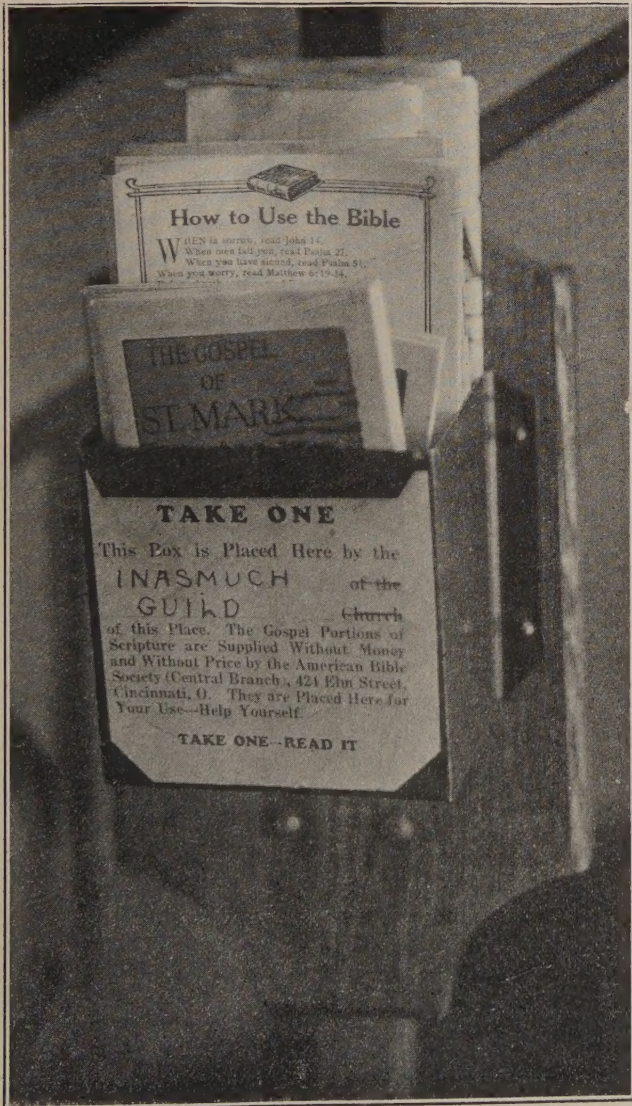


# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

Pacific School  
Religion  
Berkeley, C





Published monthly by the American Bible Society, Bible House, Astor Place, New York  
Entered as second-class matter December 3, 1923, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on December 3, 1923.

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# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

VOLUME 74

OCTOBER, 1929

NUMBER 10

## Notes and Comments

THE stupendous total of 4,674,123 volumes of Scripture circulated in China last year by our Agency has properly surprised many. When to this figure are added the circulations by the British and Scotch Societies, during the same year, raising the total to practically eleven and a half million volumes, it is not strange that two questions are asked of us: How have these millions been distributed? What are they accomplishing? The article in this issue "From Central China" gives a hint of how the distribution is accomplished. The article "Is It Worth While?" gives a hint of what the Holy Spirit is accomplishing through the printed Word. Is there not cause for great joy and continued effort?

THE picture and statement, in our September RECORD, of the fire in Japan has elicited practical sympathy. One letter encloses a check for \$100 "to help restore these losses promptly," and urges that the Society, if necessary, go in debt to replace immediately the equipment, "since the amounts to pay for it will surely be subscribed and forthcoming within a reasonable time." The losses are being made good. Contributions toward this end will be welcome.

APROPOS of the remarkable statements by non-Christian officials in India, reported by Principal Goheen in the September RECORD, the following statement is worthy of entry in our columns, both because of its source and

its content. It was made by the governor of the Madras Presidency, Viscount Goschen, shortly before he retired from that office early this summer. His whole address, delivered at a public meeting in the interests of the Madras Bible Society, was reported in full in *The Hindu*, a leading native paper of India. Viscount Goschen said:

In this world of ours at the present moment,

whether it be here in India or at home, when we are confronted by difficulties and anxiety and have so many problems to solve, it is surely a great comfort to know that there are so many people all over the world who are learning and endeavoring to fulfil the lesson of the Bible—of peace on earth and good will toward men. I am sure of this myself, that the desire for the Bible which so many people have, and which is now being so constantly shown, rests on their anxiety for a personal religion. It is to read about this personal religion and to know about the personality of Christ that they want the Bible.

In an address in China, recently, Mr. P. S. Ho, assistant editor-in-chief of the great Chinese publishing house, "The

Commercial Press" in Shanghai, in a discussion of literature in China, made the following statement:

As to Christian literature in China, it occurs to me that, except for a few works written by the early Catholics, few Christian works are highly valued by the Chinese people from the purely literary standpoint. Of course, none of us should depreciate the value of the beautiful translations of the Bible into different Chinese dialects, which will soon become one of the best and biggest sources for a comparative study of modern Chinese tongues.

This is the more interesting as Mr. Ho is not a Christian.

### DEATH WILL NOT WAIT! SHALL WE?

Competent authorities such as Dr. John R. Mott, Mr. C. R. Bennett, manager of the Peking branch of the National City Bank of New York, experienced missionaries, and responsible American business men state emphatically that famine conditions and famine needs in North China are intense. The American National Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Parkes Cadman repeats in September its appeal under the above caption, with the statement:

The administration of relief to the starving is today as practicable as at any time in the past. Our effort is to save the lives of 4,000,000 famished who are in areas that *now* can be reached without delay. It is only stating a fact to record that thousands of the starved die daily. In some places the dead have been so numerous that the living could not afford them proper burial. Wild dogs and wolves have fed upon the corpses. Cannibalism exists.

Shall we help?

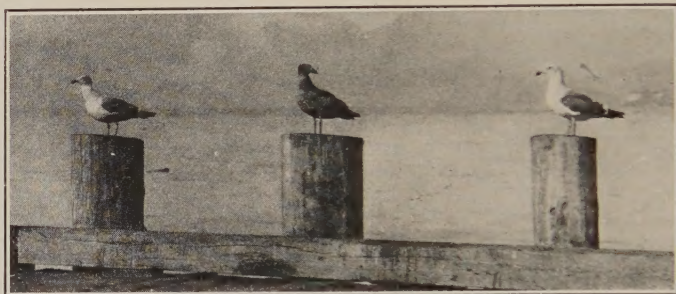
Send contributions to James A. Thomas,  
Treasurer, China Famine Relief,  
205 East 42nd Street, New York City



THE summer bulletin of the North China Union Language School contains a statement of interest to us because of its reference to our Field Secretary at Peiping, the Rev. Frank A. Jowe:

At chapel that last day a Presbyterian preacher, a Chinese graduate of Princeton Seminary, now Field Secretary of the American Bible Society, gave us a final message. This he did most beautifully—his English is lovely—reading the last verses of Matthew and reminding us of the reason we, most of us, are out here.

A POST CARD from one of our readers in Lancaster, Pa., says that he has read the Bible forty times in forty-one months, having been stimulated by the picture of the colored man reading the Bible for the fortieth time, contained in our November, 1926, issue. The writer was sixty years of age before starting this reading, and aims to read the Bible once for every year of his age. We would not encourage the mere reading of the Bible as a "stunt"; but it would be strange indeed if this reading did not prove a blessing.



ON THE WATERFRONT AT SAN FRANCISCO

FROM Secretary Irwin, of Bangkok, Siam, has just been received a letter from which the following tells its own and very interesting story:

I have received \$150 for a Life Directorship. This gift is from an old employee, whom I hoped to have stay by us. However, he has made good in business. Tong Yong was with us for over twenty years. He is now over eighty years of age and lives in China. Make out the certificate for

KHU TONG YONG  
Bangkok, Siam

and send it to Khu Ngak Song, Guan Heng Soap Works, Bangkok, Siam, who will forward it to Tong Yong.

At a "retreat" held in January for Christian workers in China, reports were given of conditions in Honan, Kiangsu, and Chekiang. Mr. Tsang from Honan reported that "General Feng's soldiers get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and take physical exercises immediately. They dress themselves very neatly. When they march through the villages, they cause no fear in the people. They pay proper prices when-

ever they do shopping, because some of them are Christians. They have a special place for worshipping God. General Feng is a great social reformer in Honan. He rebuilt cities, broadened streets, and cleaned up things in general. He also cleared off bandits and robbers."

"It seems to be the general conviction throughout the Agency among the Bible workers, that Roman Catholics are much more open-minded and eager than ever in the past to secure copies of Scriptures.

"Priests are recommending the reading of the Bible, and the public press, the movies and the radio are all helping the walls of sectarian partitions to break down. Men no longer accept ecclesiastical authority as they once did, but read for themselves. We have this past year sold a number of Bibles to Catholics and have had more cooperation from Catholics in selling Scriptures than before."—*Pacific Agency Report*.

IN grateful recognition of a grant of Bibles made for the use of girls at a hospital, a check was received accompanied by this interesting statement:

You would have been pleased to have seen the welcome given the Bibles. One little Jewish girl, a few weeks later, came up to me and asked if she might take the Bible home, since she had never seen a copy of the New Testament before, and she had become very much interested in the Gospels. The girls agreed among themselves that the Bibles should be left at the hospital for incoming girls, with the exception of cases where it would not be easy for them to secure a copy of their own upon leaving the institution.

IN Dr. Stanley Jones' widely read "Christ of the Round Table" the following significant reaction to Bible study is recorded as the experience of a Hindu teacher in a government training school:

"I began to study the Bible through some one saying that the best English was found in the Bible. I read it for that purpose, but soon found myself forgetting about the language for its message gripped me."



## A Wayside Pulpit

THE picture on our cover of a "wayside pulpit" is not only of interest for itself, but also may bring a suggestion to others. Various reports of Dr. Marston, Secretary of our Central Agency, have had reference to these wayside pulpits which he especially has promoted. This particular "pulpit" was set up and is maintained by the "Inasmuch Guild" of one of the churches at Newport, Ky. It was made by a young carpenter member of the

guild, and placed in Speers' Hospital, Dayton, Ky. In response to the invitation it bears to take one, over 500 Gospels were taken by patients and visitors in four months. Similar boxes have been placed in other hospitals, in railroad stations, hotel lobbies, courthouse corridors, etc. A happy development is that the Agency has received specific gifts in appreciation of this service, which more than cover the cost of the Gospels it has supplied freely.

## From Central China

By the Rev. Godfrey Hirst, Subagent, Hankow, China Agency

AT the close of the report for last year it was stated that Mr. C. A. Rao had joined the Society to act as Field Secretary in this sub-Agency to help develop the work on the field. It is with some measure of satisfaction we compare the distribution of the last half year of 1928, with the first half of this year. The difference is slightly over 174,000 copies, mostly in portions.

While we have to take into consideration that there are more missionaries now on the field, and the country is somewhat more settled, yet we have to look back upon a half-year of political strife and, at one time, with the tide of war rolling in upon us from Nanking. We have to take into consideration that most of the time three of our provinces were cut off from communication

with this center; and, also, that there have been serious famine conditions in these provinces which are at present only partially relieved. At one station the missionary reported that people came and died on his doorstep because of the famine conditions around him, and he was powerless to do anything.

Mr. Rao made a thorough canvass of the Chinese pastors in the Wuhan cities, and through their aid the last of the books specially marked for distribution among soldiers were distributed. His activities have to be limited in country travel by the small amount allowed for traveling expenses. But an ex-

tensive journey of about 800 miles was taken, when seventeen different cities and towns were visited. Personal interviews were held with over one hundred and fifteen pastors and other Christian workers, and eleven meetings were held in five cities.

The canvass of the churches and schools of Wuhan revealed how much need there was for a larger circulation of Bibles and Testaments among the scholars and the church members. Mr. Rao prepared a "questionnaire" as to the number possessing Bibles or Testaments and calling for suggestions as to the best way of supplying the need. This was mailed to all on our mailing list and has brought in many replies, that have shown something of the difficulty of the Chinese pastor in not having funds to lay in a supply of Scriptures ready to sell to inquirers. As a result, a simplified order form in Chinese has been prepared, so that the pastors can order and send payment at the same time.

Full advantage was taken of the opportunity of the Dr. Mott Conference held in Wuchang, at which Mr. Rao was a delegate, to meet with Chinese delegates from all around this section of the country and make known our special arrangement terms. Some pastors were led to give an order for small supplies of portions, to be sent to the men in charge of all the chapels under their superintendence.

The godown staff have been kept steadily busy packing portions to send by bookpost. For the most part all our stock goes out by mail, either because there is no other means of transit, or because the charges by rail are far in excess.

We have an instance right before us, showing how easily the books can be sold. A young Christian girl with a slight lameness has been



MR. C. A. RAO



supplied indirectly with a small stock through a responsible Chinese gentleman, a printer in the city. She stands at the church door in a busy street, and regularly sells six hundred copies a week. She could sell more, but the Chinese will not write her the necessary letter to us for them.

From foreign missionaries we get the accustomed reports of the general willingness of the people to buy and to listen to the preaching of the gospel. Even the harvesters in the fields will leave their work for a time to come and listen to the message, and invite the messenger to come again. In Honan Province, we have been informed that the idols have been forcibly

on one of the seats and reading a well-worn book. Upon a closer acquaintance, we learned that it is one of our No. 5 type Chinese pocket-sized New Testaments, and the soldier told us that some one in Honan Province had presented it to him. It was quite easy to see that "The Word" was now precious to him.

Mr. Li was met in prison and first became interested in the tracts, then in the New Testament, and later in the whole Bible, so that the Book was always to be seen open on the window ledge of his cell. Now he has been released and has taken the Bible with him. When will that seed grow and bring forth fruit?

A Bible Society agent was in the country and speaking to his hearers about the differences of religions, and he spoke about the gentleness of Jesus, when one of the bystanders said, "Yes. That is so. I have a little book that tells me that"; and he went over the road and brought back one of our small Gospels.

### Instances from Three Other Sources

Mr. Wang Chao Tien, of the Assembly of God at Lo San Cheng, Wushan, Kan-

su, reports that one literary man named Wang Ching Pei has been converted and is now a believer in Christ through the reading of the New Testament. This new convert has led in turn several other literary men to study the Bible. Before this time they often commented on the Bible against the church.

The Rev. A. H. Van Etten, Linchow, Kwangtung, wrote: "One man, not even an elder, has set himself the goal of selling 10,000 portions this year as a volunteer service; hoping to be allowed to give the proceeds from his sales to his church's work at Tung-Pei. Po-On Church members are also selling a great many hundreds on this basis, which I trust will meet with your whole-hearted approval."

The Rev. Roy Allison, Tenghsien, Shantung, reports: "The man who sells the portions is an old man, who for some time has been zealous in going to the markets and visiting towns with the hope of reaching some of the people. Some time ago he interested a school-teacher in becoming a Christian. The school-teacher led one of his friends to believe in Christ, and this man in turn has led one of his friends. The old man receives no salary for his work.



THE OLD WAY OF TRANSPORTING BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS TO THE STEAMERS (see page 161)

cleared out of the temples; and so the people want to know what they should worship now.

The native city contains a small church built by a moderately wealthy Chinese paper dealer, where there is preaching nightly. The man in charge came one day and bought a \$2.50 English New Testament.

In the country market towns, a lady missionary writes of having visited one such place, and, using a wheelbarrow for a pulpit, preached and sold Gospels freely; also of visiting a higher primary school and selling to those there, as well as to a Buddhist priest.

Preaching bands are supplied to go into the mountainous regions where probably the gospel has not previously been preached. Many Scripture portions are sold from dispensaries and hospitals, and a liberal distribution is made of Scriptures to workers among prisoners.

Colporteurs reported that, when they were distributing Gospels in W—— in Shansi, they met a very old man, and he bought all the one thousand two hundred portions which they had in hand. The old man told them that these portions would help much in doing God service.

One soweth, another reapeth. While walking one evening on our bund, my wife and I noticed a soldier resting in a kneeling position



# For Such an Age as This

UNIVERSAL Bible Sunday this year falls on December 8. The Society is happy to announce that the brochure for distribution to pastors has been prepared by Dr. Lynn Harold Hough, pastor of the American Presbyterian Church in Montreal.

"For Such an Age as This" is the theme that has been agreed upon. Printed material related

to this subject is being provided, and will reach the pastors of America early in November. In addition to Dr. Hough's brochure, an unusually attractive four-color poster has been prepared for distribution, as well as a responsive reading, which will be furnished in quantity for congregational use.

Remember December 8th.

. . .

## The Radio a Colporteur

By the Rev. A. Wesley Mell, Secretary, Pacific Agency

THE Pacific Agency was not only the pioneer, but has been the most consistent, in the broadcasting of a portion of Scriptures at a given hour every day. Through the courtesy of Station KPO (Hale Brothers and *The Chronicle*) the noon-day program of Scripture reading, preceded by the playing of the chimes, has been a recognized feature for six years.

From many letters, we judge that thousands of individuals and many institutions await this noontime service. It comes as grace to some at mealtime. On busy streets at the radio shops, people may be seen setting their watches at the 12 o'clock signal and then reverently waiting for the chimes and the Scripture reading. So popular has the service become, that certain other radio stations have, to our joy, taken our suggestion and give a week-day Scripture reading. One station in Los Angeles has taken the same hour for this service. The noontime Scripture broadcasting during January and February read chapters from the Gospels of Matthew and John.

For some months the Paulist Fathers of San Francisco, for ten minutes of the noon hour, broadcast a portion of the Scripture without comment.



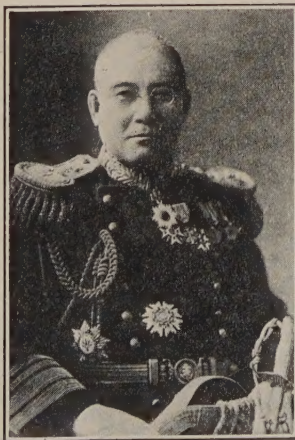
SAN FRANCISCO ALSO IS RISING TOWARD THE SKY

### The Bible and the Battleships

On August 17, on the flagship Asama, the officers of the Japanese training battleships of the Imperial Japanese Navy, in full regalia, with elaborate ceremony, graciously and cordially received from the representatives of the

Japanese and American Christian churches and the American Bible Society a gift of Bibles.

Speeches were made by the Rev. Hata and the Rev. Tsuda, representing the Japanese Association of Churches; the Rev. Clyde Smith, of the Church Federation; and the Rev. A. Wesley Mell, of the American Bible Society. Vice-Admiral Nomura responded heartily and happily in excellent English. He said it was a high honor, the Japanese officers felt, to have the Bible presented to them; that he had been many times in America and knew that the lofty conceptions and high ideals of the Nation were inspired by the Bible, and



VICE-ADMIRAL KICHISABURO NOMURA  
Commander of the Japanese Training Squadron



it was their hope and prayer that, with the ideals of righteousness and justice of this Bible, peace would ever reign between the two nations. He further said that he hoped their battleships would never make war, but only be a national police force for righteousness and peace and good will.

The quarterdeck of the flagship was specially decorated for the presentation service. Every honor was paid to the party. A battleship launch carried the Bible party to and from the flagship in the harbor.

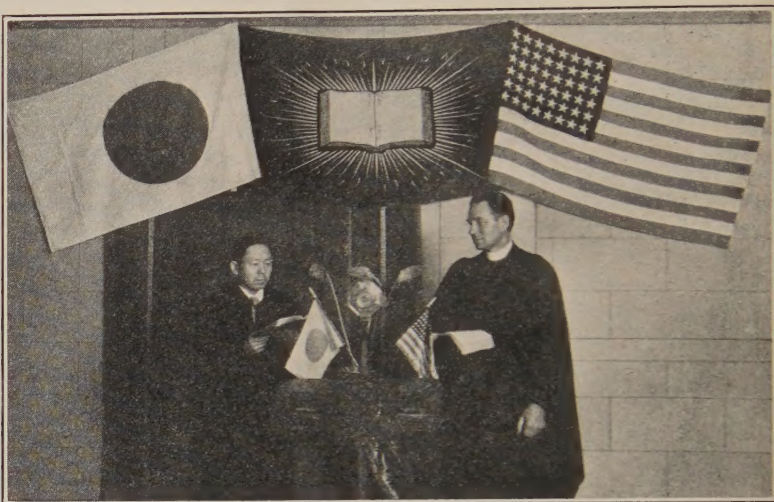
Morekazu Ida, the San Francisco Consul General of Japan, made all the arrangements and presented the Bible representatives to the Vice-Admiral, the Captains, their staff and the 220 officers in training.

Eight of these Japanese Navy officials were announced Christians. All the officers seemed most pleased with the service, which, though formal, was cordial and responsive to the expressions that the teachings and spirit of the Bible would help bind the nations on the Pacific and throughout the world in lasting peace and good will.

#### The Bible and the Ball Game

Labor Day was a great holiday for San Francisco. But San Francisco did not labor, it spent the day in recreation. The ball park was crowded and KPO Broadcasting Station was reporting the game, play by play, to fandom everywhere. A few minutes before noon the

announcer said, "We will now switch back to KPO Station, Hale Brothers and the *Chronicle* in San Francisco, to get the time signals and the Scripture reading." Thus, in the



THE REV. J. A. COLLINS, OF GRACE CATHEDRAL, AND THE REV. Y. TSUDA, READING THE NOONDAY SCRIPTURE LESSON IN ENGLISH AND IN JAPANESE

During the five days visit of the Japanese Fleet in San Francisco Harbor, the daily Scripture Lessons were broadcast at noon over KPO in English and in Japanese, American and Japanese pastors participating.

midst of the great game, time was given second by second for a few moments, the chimes played, and then a portion of Scripture was impressively read, the chimes again played and again the sports were on.

Tell us not that the Word of God has no appeal to the masses. Even to the sporting element of a great city in its crowded and most hilarious time of sport, there comes a moment when the eternal Word is spoken and man listens to the voice of God through his prophets of old. And, though he goes back to the excitement of sport, he is a cleaner and better man.

• • •

## Is It Worth While?

**T**HAT anyone questioning whether the circulation of millions of volumes of Scripture in China is worth while may have basis for forming an opinion, the following incidents are culled from the latest annual report of the China Agency. These definite examples of the power of "the naked Word of God," as Dr. John R. Mott has phrased it, are clear indications of what is going on in that great land. It takes but little imagination to realize how the millions of volumes of Scripture annually scattered through China are changing

hearts, molding lives and building the Kingdom.

#### The Word at Work

A Christian, residing at Shuanglin, sends me an account of how he was led to the truth. He had read Taoist and Buddhist books, but saw that they only contained partial statements of right doctrine. On meeting a colporteur, he bought the Four Gospels, Acts, and Genesis. These he recognized at once as containing the Word of God, which the books of the other



religions did not; for from the Word of God came new life and power to the soul. The grace of God thus directed his steps to the church where he heard Ch'en Ming-chong, the evangelist, speak. He now bought the whole Bible. This he proceeded to read from cover to cover, thereby greatly establishing his faith and bringing to him untold blessing.

One can scarcely imagine a finer, clearer, testimony to the unique power of the Scriptures than this. Would that all students of comparative religion could read it. Chou was a seeker after God and he found him where only he can be found.

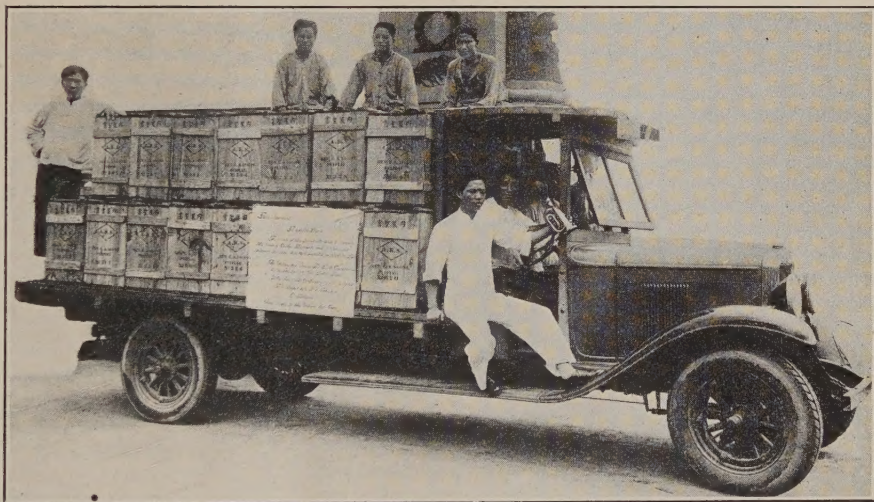
At Ichang, a woman named Li Yu-shi was given a Bible on her way up to Szechwan. Presumably she obtained it at the Scotch Mission there. That Bible took her straight to church

A young man named Huang came into my study one day and, holding up a copy of the New Testament, said: "There, I have read it through. It took me two whole nights from dusk to dawn and half a night. My reading of it has shown me that Christianity is not what it was represented to me. It is a universal religion, born in heaven. But I want you to explain to me its inner meaning."

A student, who began Bible study a year ago and has since been teaching others, writes: "Every morning at half past five, I study the Bible which you gave me last spring, for half an hour. After that I reprepare my lessons which I prepared last night. In this case I work on and on, and I find that my conduct is much better than before and my lessons improve much quicker too. That is because there

#### THE NEW WAY OF TRANSPORTING SCRIPTURES TO STEAMERS

The owner of the handcart (see p. 158) which formerly conveyed the cases of Scripture to steamer or train has now invested in a motor truck. The photograph shows the first consignment to be sent out on this motor truck. Sixty-two cases containing 108,270 books to be shipped per S.S. Tungchow to Tientsin and thence to the Peiping sub-Agency.



when she got home. And she, too, is a daily student of the Word.

A student named Yang Kin-chi somehow got a Bible. The great thing that impressed him was the unique and all-superior character of Christ. None of the world's heroes could at all be compared to him. And from this vantage point he was gradually led to embrace him as his Saviour.

I heard of an old man of seventy-eight years, a most ardent worshipper of idols. One day he heard the colporteur telling of Jesus. That stirred his interest. Buying a Bible, he speedily turned around to become a zealous Christian.

A man called P'en Choh-shi, at P'hsien, relates how he attended church for a good while and, though edified after a fashion, did not find the Light of Life until he read for himself the New Testament and saw in Christ the object of his soul's desires.

are many good teachings in the Bible. I get them every day when I read them. I hope that you can tell some other boys whom you know in Laichow to read the Bible in the morning, because the mind is much clearer, and, if we get a good teaching, we can depend upon it to work on in the whole day. So we may say, 'It is wise to study the Bible as a leader in the morning.'"

Mr. Hu, of Pensha, a place about thirty miles from Hoyangfu, bought a Gospel of Mark from a colporteur from Nan Yangfu, Honan, when he was a boy of eighteen years, and he read the Gospel repeatedly and lent it out to others until it was worn out. He was converted, wholly through the reading of the Gospel. He is now seventy-two years old. When the Augustana Synod Mission went to Pehsha to open work there, he immediately responded and was the foundation of the work there. He



has a son who is an evangelist and his wife is a Biblewoman.

The Augustana Synod Mission have a Biblewoman who is now sixty years of age, who, when a girl, was taught to read by her father, who was a school-teacher. When a girl, she bought a book from a colporteur and read it. Afterward she married and had not the time and opportunity to read, and so lost the ability to do so. After she became a widow and her son was going to school, he used to bring his lessons home, and she studied with him and re-acquired the ability to read. In 1921, there was a famine in the district and the mission was giving famine relief and preaching the gospel. She heard that the missionaries were preaching the gospel, and came to hear the message. As soon as she had heard the message, she remembered that it was exactly the same that she had read in the book which she had read as a child. She was then fifty years old.

Mr. Kuo Kwang Yao, of the Church at Yishui, Shantung, reports, "Because the portions are very convenient to carry, many people carry the Gospels with them wherever they go. One time a great number of men and women were captured and taken away by bandits. Later the bandits found they were reading the Gospel which they carried with them and released them only because they held the Gospel. Before they got release, they enjoyed themselves by reading the Gospel during melancholy hours. Others were brought to study Chris-

tianity through their reading of the Gospel."

Mr. Lu Chung Ying, of the Hwei Ming Tang at Chitung, Kiangsu, reports that he has five believers who became Christians through the influence of reading our portions.

Mr. Ai Kwang, of the Sen Jeh Hwei at Changteh, Hunan, reports that two men have been led to Christ through the influence of our portions. One is a merchant named Fan Pei Sen, who immediately repented of his sins when he accepted the Scriptures. The other is a farmer named Cheng Ming Ching, who, having acquired our Scripture portions, led his whole family to believe in the Word.

The Shang Yu Tang, at Foochow, Fukien, reports that there are forty persons who have understood the Word of the Lord through the reading of the Scriptures. Among these converts, three members of one family were led to the Lord and became Christians. They think it is a glory. There are fifteen who have made up their mind to be voluntary workers.

Mr. Liu Dse Ming, of the Gospel Hall of the Bethel Mission, Arsenal Road, Shanghai, with regard to experiences in selling portions, reports that one time a young girl, about six years old, came to them and bought a copy of the Gospel of John. She took back the book to her home. Occasionally this book was read by a man named Liu, who was then an opium smoker. After he read the book, he repented and came to the Lord. Indeed, the grace of God is wonderful!

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## Events in the Levant

By the Rev. J. Oscar Boyd, D.D., Secretary, Levant Agency

**T**HE older parts of the Old World still have their surprises and new developments.

### Moving an Old Agency's Headquarters

Moving the headquarters of this Agency from Constantinople, where it had been since 1854, to Vienna has involved many problems, but included the successful introduction, duty free, of all the plates belonging to the Agency exclusively, of which twenty series numbering 13,551 came from Constantinople, and nine series numbering 7,560 came from Beirut. Every plate came safely, though eight of them fell into the harbor of Beirut while being loaded from lighter to ship. Divers recovered them, and they are none the worse for their sea-water bath.

In the prosecution of all these extraordinary duties we have met with the most courteous and

friendly treatment, for the most part, from both official and unofficial Austrians, who have lived up to their reputation for hospitality and kindness to the stranger within their gates. This is the more worthy of mention, because the prevailing religion is the Roman Catholic, whose adherents do not always look upon our Society's aims with approval. However, it is pleasant to be able to state that those firms which have thus far shown themselves best equipped to do our printing and binding, at the lowest figures consistent with careful workmanship and financial responsibility, have been evangelical firms that, for this reason, take a real interest in the manufacture of our Oriental Scriptures. And it would be a mistake to omit grateful reference to the official representatives of the United States here in Vienna, who have all,—the Minister, the two commercial attachés,



and the Consul,—at one time or another, exerted themselves to aid us in our unusual contacts with Austrian officialdom. The representative of our sister Society (the British and Foreign) in charge of its Austrian work, Herr Döring, has also been of the greatest help in solving some of our problems.

#### Altered with Breath-taking Suddenness

Previous issues of the RECORD have referred to the introduction of the new alphabet. The Turk has always written his language with a borrowed alphabet—that of the Arab. But the Arabic characters have been an awkward means of indicating Turkish sounds, apart from the actual Arabic words incorporated by borrowing in the Turkish language. Because of this unsuitability, a Turk has had to spend more time and more patient effort than do other European and Western peoples in mastering the arts of reading and writing. The effort was so considerable, that at least seventy percent of the Turks never learned to read at all—still less learned to write. The use of Arabic characters had also the effect of cutting Turkey off most effectually from the Western world, where the Latin characters are nearly universal, and of binding her to Asiatic civilization.

This situation has now been altered with breath-taking suddenness. Turkish is henceforth to be written and printed phonetically, by means of the alphabet to which Westerners are accustomed. Not a vestige of the Arabic script is allowed in the grade schools. Drummers have gone through the streets and villages all over the Republic, declaring war on illiteracy, and calling upon all citizens, both men and women, above school age—that is, between the ages of sixteen and forty—to attend the special classes opened for them. Many thousands of such special schools have been opened. Study has suddenly become the fashion. (See the illustrated article by Mr. M. O. Williams in the January, 1929, number of the *National Geographic Magazine*.) The lazy are encouraged by threat of substantial and repeated fines for all who fail to learn within a specified period.

It is also a punishable offence from January 1, 1929, to print anything in the old characters.

This reform has, of course, a direct and incalculable bearing on the Turkish work of the American Bible Society. On the one hand, our entire stock of Scriptures, together with the plates from which they are printed, have been rendered obsolete and must be replaced as promptly as possible by Scriptures in the accepted characters. Fortunately, there has, as yet, been no prohibition of the sale of books in the old characters, so that our printed stocks should serve to carry us through the transition period. On the other hand, the reform throws open a great new constituency to cultivation by the Bible Societies. Millions of people will be able to read the Scriptures, who could not have done so twelve months ago. The stoniest of fields, where the Seed had little chance of taking root, is being miraculously changed into rich, virgin soil.

#### A Significant Incident

One evening the sub-Agent, Mr. Lyman MacCallum, attended a lecture on "The Place of Religion in Nationalism," given by a distinguished Turkish professor at the "Turk Ojak" of Stamboul. The Turk Ojak, of which chapters are found throughout the Republic, is the young people's Nationalist club, exclusively Turkish and rather suspicious of foreign religious work in Turkey. About halfway through his lecture the professor opened a large book he had brought with him and commenced to read. It was the words of a Hebrew prophet named Amos, and the book was one of this Society's Turkish Bibles. Warming to his theme, the lecturer continued to read striking passages. Joel, Isaiah, Habakkuk, Jesus and Paul spoke in turn to that audience. It was a remarkable evening. No foreigner, no Christian could have got a hearing on such a subject. Yet those keen young people, the pride and hope of Turkey, listened intently for three-quarters of an hour to the Bible, when read to them by a Moslem Turk. It seemed a significant and hopeful event.

## An Explosion and a Result

By the Rev. Arthur F. Ragatz, D.D., Secretary, Western Agency

**M**ORE than a score of people were at work in an aeroplane factory when an explosion occurred, which caused the death of ten or more of the workers.

Among those who were instantly killed was Miss Ella Taylor, who, after graduating from

high school, planned to pursue special studies to prepare herself for active Christian service. When arrangements were made for her funeral services, her family expressed the wish that, since this tragedy had put an end to her plans, money which would otherwise be used



for flowers might be spent for Testaments to be given to the sick in hospitals.

Friends in the church and Sunday school to which she belonged, members of her graduating class, and many others readily agreed, and several hundred Testaments were purchased. In each book there was pasted a little memorial statement giving these facts and tenderly urging the reader to heed God's warning and accept the Christ as his personal Saviour.

The idea in itself was appealing, but the

good that was accomplished by these Testaments so commended the plan to others, that in less than a year nearly two thousand Testaments have been bought and distributed.

Groups of Christian workers take these books and with red pencil underscore dozens of verses emphasizing God's warning against sin and His blessed promises of forgiveness and pardon. Every Testament is thus marked before being personally presented to some one who promises to read it.

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## The Story of Rosalia Salazar

By the Rev. H. C. McKinney

ONE of the most promising fields of the Orinoco River Mission in Venezuela is the result of the seed falling into the heart of a young woman. One Sunday the Secretary of this Agency visited Rio Caribe, in the eastern part of Venezuela, and spoke to a gathering of believers and sympathizers numbering about one hundred and fifty. The following day, on his way to Carúpano, he stopped at a place called El Moro, a village of about five hundred inhabitants, and visited the mission day school, taught by two Christian women. He was informed that the day before there was an attendance at Bible school of more than one hundred children and adults. Both of these towns received the gospel from the same young woman.

The story of the conversion of Rosalia Salazar and her subsequent work is an interesting case of a harvest reaped by others from the seed sown by a Bible colporteur. Rosalia is now about thirty years old, and married to one of the national workers of the mission. About twelve years ago she lived with a customhouse official as his mistress, on the island of Margarita, about forty miles from the mainland.

One day her brother bought a Bible from a colporteur of the American Bible Society. Later he gave the Bible to his sister. As she read the Book, she became possessed of a new vision of life, and it dawned upon her that she was living in sin. She pleaded with her master

to marry her, but he refused. He sought to conciliate her, however, and persuade her to remain with him as before. He treated her well, and she enjoyed the luxuries of the upper class of that community. However, she would not continue living in that illegal and sinful way, but returned to her parents in Rio Caribe, and there her work of spreading the Good News began.

After awhile Rosalia gathered about herself a group of twelve, who became interested in the gospel. About that time the Orinoco River Mission, with headquarters at Carúpano, about sixteen miles west of Rio Caribe, heard of this small group. In July of 1922, Miss Røe Williams began her ministry among them, and in the succeeding years this small nucleus of twelve grew into a strong organization, whose members have reached out to evangelize surrounding villages.

Rosalia, later on, was employed as one of the mission's regular workers, both as school-teacher and evangelist. At one time, while she was visiting in one of the missionary homes in Carúpano, the victrola was played. Rosalia began to cry, and, on being asked what was the matter, she said, "Oh, it comes back to me—the luxuries of life I once had on the island." The call of the past arrested her only for a moment. It is hard to realize the price that many of these converts pay to obtain the larger freedom of Christian service.

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## Rural Japan Invitingly Open

*From the Japan Agency Annual Report.*

THE Bible must be borne to the destitute by messengers who have the spirit of Christ. It must be commended to the ignorant by those who prize and understand its truth. Men and

women serving as our colporteurs may not know the science of salesmanship; but, thank God, they know the power of the gospel experimentally. It took sin and selfishness out



of their hearts and enthused them with divine love for souls. This experience put "the go" into them, and, even though some of them have been strenuously working for many years, they are today still "going strong."

Through years of experience it has been found important to direct colportage with due regard to seasons of the year in which the different classes of people have more leisure time. While tillers of soil, and fishermen have their busy seasons, our workers fall back into the cities or towns. In relation to the rural folk, our colporteurs' reports agree with the statement of a recently retired missionary, who said, "Access to rural Japan—the Japan of the common people—is invitingly open. Access to the heart of the country people is increasingly possible; the internal barriers of the spirit are rapidly weakening."

Our records show that the workers in the field covered over 30,000 miles in canvassing 274,120 homes and 646 other institutions. About three-fourths of the year was given to the real rural districts. In order to facilitate easier and faster operation, our nine regular colporteurs were provided with bicycles—an act which has proved absolutely justifiable. It is a matter of much interest that three of these men, each fifty years of age, had never used a

bicycle until this year, and some of us were dubious as to whether they ever could ride a wheel to advantage. However, the determination with which they attempted it carried the day.

On a Sunday, in April, Colporteur Imamura attended church service in a rural town. Five young men were baptized. After the close of the service he met the minister, who, upon learning that Imamura was a Bible Society worker, immediately exclaimed, "Let me tell you that one of the men baptized was led to Christ by reading a Gospel bought from one of your Society's colporteurs who, last year, canvassed the school he attended." The young man and Imamura were brought together and, through the conversation that followed, it was discovered, to the great delight of both, that Imamura was the very man who had handed that Gospel to that young man. Imamura said that, "I believe this incident, perhaps, brought more joy to me than it did to my young friend. While I firmly believe the Scriptures are not scattered in vain, my faith was strengthened, my task made lighter, and as never before I regard it a supreme honor to take the message of the King of Glory, day after day, to any and all places where human souls abide."

**BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD**

EDITORS .....*The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1929

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

INSTITUTED 1816

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE BOARD

THE fifth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and fourteenth year was held at the Bible House, Astor Place, New York, on Thursday, September 5, 1929, at 3:30 o'clock p. m., President E. Francis Hyde in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Karl E. Aurell, Secretary of the Japan Agency, now on furlough in this country.

The minutes of the second stated meeting were presented and approved.

The minutes of the joint meetings of the General Reference and Finance Committees held on July 11 and August 1, to transact business needing attention in the absence of a meet-

ing of the Board, were also presented and approved.

The following memorial minute on Vice-President Eben E. Olcott was recorded as adopted by a rising vote:

Eben Erskine Olcott

The death of Eben Erskine Olcott on June 5, 1929, in his seventy-sixth year, has deprived the American Bible Society and other important Christian organizations of a valuable and prized friend. He gave generously of his abilities and resources to many public and philanthropic causes. His accomplishments as a mining and metallurgical engineer in our own country and in various countries of Latin America to which he gave his earlier years, and the achievements which have marked the years since he became the president and developer of the Hudson River Day Line, will have record in the actions of other bodies with which he held honored association in his lifetime.

The earliest link between the American Bible Society and Mr. Olcott was wrought four decades ago when in Peru as a mining engineer he learned that one of the Society's colporteurs had been in prison for several months at Callao for the "crime" of selling Bibles. Mr. Olcott promptly visited the colporteur in prison, and so diligently and effectively championed his cause and aroused public and official opinion on both continents, that the colporteur was soon released. When, two decades later, he again met this colporteur, the Reverend F. G. Penzotti, then become



one of the outstanding and highly honored citizens of South America, Mr. Olcott was affectionately embraced and hailed by him as "my saviour."

Since 1914, he was a Manager of the American Bible Society, being on its important Finance Committee for several years. For the past two years, he has been one of its Vice-Presidents. He represented the Society at the Latin-American Congress held in February, 1916, at Panama, and took part on February 20, 1916, in the laying of the cornerstone of the Bible House at Cristobal.

Being a prominent Christian layman in the great city of New York, Mr. Olcott was called on for service in many lines, all of which he rendered with fidelity and interest. Especially loyal to his own denomination, the Reformed Church in America, in which he rendered valued service as a deacon and then elder of the St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, he was also widely related to other home and foreign missionary enterprises. He was one of those rare men who, in the midst of large business responsibilities and many general activities, made time for, and took delight in, personal kindnesses to individuals young and old. Many there are who will rise up and call him blessed.

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society rejoices in a life and character of such distinction and usefulness, and offers this message of appreciation and sympathy to Mrs. Olcott and their sons and daughter.

The following memorial minute on Vice-President Thomas C. McRae was recorded as adopted by a rising vote:

#### Thomas C. McRae

The Hon. Thomas C. McRae, whose death occurred in Prescott, Arkansas, on June 2, 1929, became a Vice-President of the American Bible Society on January 6, 1921. At the age of twenty-six Mr. McRae began his political career in Arkansas, his native state, as a member of the House of Representatives. In 1884, he served as chairman of the Democratic State Convention, an honor which came again to him in 1902. In 1885, he was elected a member of Congress and served in that capacity for eighteen successive years.

Mr. McRae was elected governor of Arkansas in 1921, having practiced law during the years subsequent to his retirement from Congress. He served two terms as governor, leaving behind him a record of wholesome living and faithful service. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church. Through this memorial minute the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society would bear tribute to his life and character, and extend their sympathy to his family.

The minutes of standing committees held during July and August were recorded as approved.

Grants of a corrected edition of the Gospels and Acts in Bengali to the West African Mission of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., and of the revised edition of the New Testament in Tswana to the Southeast Africa Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, received approval. Various grants for work in the United States also received approval.

The serious loss to the Society by the de-

struction of Scriptures, and plates for their printing, in connection with the fire in the premises of the printer in Tokyo, Japan, was reported.

By invitation, the Rev. Karl E. Aurell, Secretary of the Japan Agency, spoke briefly of the work of the Society in Japan, bringing grateful thanks for the service it was rendering the people in that land.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies:

During the month of May, 1929: Brazil, 1,685 volumes, valued at \$1,378.11; Caribbean, 6,395 volumes, valued at \$2,413.29; China, 1,718 volumes, valued at \$436.49; Japan, 34 volumes, valued at \$68.00; La Plata, 10,500 volumes, valued at \$1,798.42; Philippines, 377 volumes, valued at \$314.12; Siam, 75 volumes, valued at \$28.23; Upper Andes, 2,711 volumes, valued at \$28.48; total volumes, 23,495; total value, \$6,865.14.

During the month of June, 1929: Brazil, 73,555 volumes, valued at \$1,763.35; Caribbean, 1,276 volumes, valued at \$885.74; Japan 4 volumes, valued at \$11.29; La Plata, 5,104 volumes, valued at \$856.34; Mexico, 2,306 volumes, valued at \$2,036.64; Philippines, 196 volumes, valued at \$230.64; Upper Andes, 4,556 volumes, valued at \$924.86; West Indies, 550 volumes, valued at \$44.17; total volumes, 87,547; total value \$6,753.03.

During the month of July, 1929: Brazil, 8,968 volumes, valued at \$658.07; Caribbean, 30 volumes, valued at \$22.49; La Plata, 1 volume, valued at \$.36; Mexico, 1,762 volumes, valued at \$1,743.15; Upper Andes, 10,034 volumes, valued at \$776.27; West Indies, 5,784 volumes, valued at \$809.85; total volumes, 26,579; total value, \$4,010.19.

The issues from the Bible House during May were 251,550 volumes; June, 316,342 volumes; and July, 122,225 volumes.

The meeting was adjourned.

#### HOW TO SEND MONEY BY MAIL

*Your money may be lost if you enclose in an ordinary letter silver coin, bills or postage stamps.*

**THE SAFE WAY IS ONE OF THESE FOUR:**

1. Register the letter in which you send bills or postage stamps. Any postmaster will register a letter for fifteen cents.
2. Send the money by Bank check or draft.
3. Send it by an Express Company's money order.
4. Send it by a Post-office money order.

*Whichever way is chosen, address the letter and make the check, draft, or order, payable to Gilbert Darlington, Treasurer, Bible House, Astor Place, New York.*



# CASH RECEIPTS IN AUGUST, 1929

## LEGACIES

Bevan, William, late of Delaware, Ohio.....	\$ 708 29
Brown, John Howard, late of Cadiz, Ohio.....	5 00
Davis, Herbert C., late of Atlanta, Ga. ....	2,250 00
Green, George, late of Newcastle, Pa. ....	100 00
Muse, Margaret G., late of Greenfield, Ohio.....	569 87
Thayer, Emma Edward, late of McAllen, Texas	1,000 00
	<u>\$4,633 16</u>

## ANNUITY GIFTS

Amount received during month .....	\$54,533 50
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## AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

	Received on Book Donation Account
Dutchess Co., N.Y. \$	5 08
East Allen Co., Kan. ....	\$ 10 00
Massachusetts ..	1,000 00
New Hampshire..	79 18
New York .....	26 72
Salem, N. C. ....	4 19
St. Louis, Mo....	271 48
Waxhaw and Shiloh, Lancaster, S. C. ....	22 97
	<u>\$ 32 97</u>
Book Account ...	1,386 65
	<u>\$1,419 62</u>

## HOME AGENCIES

Atlantic .....	\$2,866 23
Central .....	1,212 72
Colored .....	1,575 05
Eastern .....	2,220 36
National Capital .....	274 36
Northwestern .....	2,894 92
Pacific .....	1,998 90
South Atlantic .....	1,534 41
Southwestern .....	1,812 27
Western .....	1,080 85
	<u>\$17,470 07</u>

## From Home Agencies and Included

	In Home Agencies Receipts
Donations from Auxiliary Bible Societies:	
Pennsylvania Bible Society .....	\$351 50
Gifts from Churches.....	420 91
Gifts from Individuals....	344 92

## RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES

	DONATED
Board of Foreign Missions, M. E. Church.....	\$440 00
Church of the Good Mission, Africa .....	24 22
Rev. Thomas H. Dodd, Ajo, Ariz. ....	1 00
	<u>\$465 22</u>

## RECAPITULATION

Legacies .....	\$ 4,633 16
Annuity Gifts .....	54,533 50
Auxiliary Societies on Donation Account ....	32 97

## Auxiliary Societies on

Book Account.....	\$ 1,386 65
Home Agencies .....	17,470 07
Returns from Scriptures Donated .....	465 22
	<u>\$78,521 57</u>

## MISCELLANEOUS

Annuity Department....	\$ 36 00
Bible House Rentals....	10,055 44
Bible Society Record....	7 00
Diffusion of Information Funds for Transmission..	366 55
General Salaries and Expenses .....	3 83
Gifts for Distribution to the Blind:	
From Churches .....	47 30
From Individuals .....	225 77
Gifts from Churches.....	6,304 67
Gifts from Individuals...	11,798 11
Income from Available Investments .....	50 81
Income from Legacies and Gifts, Trust Funds	76 29
J. P. & J. E. Wragg Fund Invested .....	60 00
Manufacturing Credits...	153 98
Million Testament Fund	193 01
Special Annuity Income and Expense.....	353 78
Trade .....	284 55
U. S. Trust Co., Available Investment .....	31,746 54
	<u>\$61,764 58</u>

Total Cash Receipts....\$140,286 15

# CASH STATEMENT FOR AUGUST, 1929

## GENERAL CASH STATEMENT

### RECEIPTS

Balance from July, 1929.....	\$43,988 48
Gifts from Auxiliaries.....	32 97
Auxiliaries .....	1,386 65
Trade .....	284 55
Manufacturing Credits .....	153 98
Annuity Account .....	54,533 50
Bible House Rentals.....	10,055 44
Gifts for Distribution to Blind.....	273 07
Gifts from Churches.....	6,304 67
Gifts from Individuals.....	11,798 11
Bible Society Record.....	7 00
Special Annuity Income and Expense Account .....	353 78
Wragg, Rev. and Mrs. J. P., Fund.....	60 00
Funds Received for Transmission.....	366 55
United States Trust Co., Available Investment .....	31,746 54
Home Agencies .....	17,470 07
Million Testament Fund.....	193 01
General Salaries and Expenses.....	3 83
Diffusion of Information.....	95
Income from Legacies and Gifts—Trust Funds .....	76 29
Annuity Department .....	36 00
Incomes from Available Investment.....	50 81
Legacies .....	4,633 16
Returns from Scriptures Donated.....	465 22
	<u>\$184,274 63</u>

### DISBURSEMENTS

Bills of Exchange.....	\$15,998 00
General Salaries and Expenses.....	3,151 05
Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses...	1,078 41
Bible House Expenses.....	6,166 75
Appeals .....	1,700 97
Diffusion of Information.....	2,022 19
Annuity Department .....	14,799 00
Bible Society Record.....	339 63
Cash Reserved for Publication Department..	24,315 09
Home Agencies .....	12,014 16
Foreign Agencies .....	2,429 76
Funds Received for Transmission.....	366 55
Special Annuity Income and Expense Account	564 03
Blind Fund .....	28 75
Miscellaneous Home .....	150 00
Miscellaneous Foreign.....	930 22
Church Budget Costs .....	316 41
Legacy Expenses .....	5 00
Library .....	241 47
Income from Legacies and Gifts—Trust Funds .....	665 00
Balance to September, 1929.....	96,992 19

\$184,274 63

## PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance from July, 1929.....	\$32,295 74	Publication Department .....	\$21,379 31
Transferred from General Cash.....	24,315 09	Balance to September, 1929.....	35,231 52
	<u>\$56,610 83</u>		<u>\$56,610 83</u>

Total Cash Balance.....\$132,223 71



# THERE ARE MANY REASONS

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